



From the desk of the Chairman

The main focus of this Newsletter is **UPDATES**.

We have information on several of our more recent deployments to share. However, before we get to them I wish to pay tribute to our long-serving Administrator, Jill Bates.

Jill was, for many of you, the person who answered the phone and wrote/answered emails. She was also, until recently, one of our Trustees.

Jill's time with us goes back further than 2010 when we adopted our current name, so you may be able to imagine how much she will be missed. We wish her continued success in her professional and personal life.

Meanwhile, our phone line (0161-336 9528) and email address (jillb@disasteraiduk.org) are still active so communications are 'as normal'.



Robert

Nepal - 2015 Earthquakes

It was 2016 when we were last in Nepal and but the ongoing disputes between Nepal and India, and delays confirming with our Rotary partners in Nepal which sites should be selected for installation of water filters, all led to us missing the window of opportunity before the 2016 monsoon season started.

We have now resolved those issues and two Disaster Aid Response Team (DART) volunteers from Australia are about to go to Nepal and install a number of SkyHydrant water filter systems.

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## Vanuatu - 2016 Cyclone

We are returning to Vanuatu to install 3 SkyHydrant water filter systems.

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Haiti - 2016 Hurricane

Our second visit to Haiti finished a few days ago.

At the time of our first visit in late 2016 supplies of building materials were in short supply so we left our in-country partner to

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move the project forward as supplies became available.

The main purposes of our second visit were to check the condition of the homes re-built by our in-country partner and identify locations that would benefit by having SkyHydrant water filters installed.

A total of 104 homes have benefitted from the Home Repair Kits provided in rural areas.



We were told that 700 more families are still in need of help to rebuild though!

Assessments for potential SkyHydrant installations have resulted in 4 locations being identified. These include 2 hospitals and a



school. However, these are the 'tip of an iceberg' and are just

some of the needs from the part of Haiti we have been to. The balance of the unspent donations we received will determine what more we can do.

Now that our volunteers have returned home we will be making hard decisions about what to do next. This story is not over.

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## Ecuador - 2016 Earthquake

The story in Ecuador is not over either.

After completion of a land survey of the preferred site that our DARTs identified for re-building the village, it was deemed to be unsuitable. A second location had also been identified and although we are ready to proceed, delays have been caused by planning issues over provision of utility services.

Meanwhile, and through a fortunate meeting with Ecuadorian students studying in Manchester, we have been able to ship 50 Sawyer water filters to the contacts we established last July. They were carried as baggage by a number of the students returning for a Christmas break.

It galls me to have to say this, but watch this space for future developments.

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Gala Dinner

It's not too late to join us at our Gala Dinner on March 25, 2017. Details are on our website and at £28 pp inclusive of dinner, it promises to be a good Saturday night out. We hope to see you there.